

Translation Helps for the Book of Jonah



Below are some translation helps for the Book of Jonah. The information provided is primarily concerned with the identification of forms. Enough information has been included that will allow you to look up words in a dictionary, preferably BDB.

Jonah 1:2

קָיָם **GV2MS** √קָיָם (Qal Imperative 2MS).

- This is a weak verb, a II-Vav/Yod verb, a.k.a. middle weak, middle hollow, CVC, or biconsonantal (*Basics* 434–35).
- Whereas the lexical entry for most verbs is the GP3MS (Qal Perf. 3MS), these verbs are listed in the dictionary according to their infinitive construct form, which also happens to be its GV2MS form.

לָדָה **GV2MS** √לָדָה (Qal Imperative 2MS).

- This verb begins with a הָ, and so one expects it to act like a I-Guttural, when in fact it acts like a I-Yod/Vav. (*Basics* 432–33). So basically this is an irregular verb and simply needs to be memorized.

עָלָה **III-He** √עָלָה.

- In the perfect of III-He verbs, the הָ becomes a ךָ in most forms. In the 3CP (which has a vocalic sufformative), the הָ disappears altogether; in the 2FS (which also has a vocalic sufformative), the הָ becomes a תָ before the sufformative (*Basics* 428–29).

Jonah 1:3

תִּרְשִׁיטָהּ What is the הָ doing at the end?

בָּאָה **GAPtcpFSA** √בָּאָה (Qal Active Participle FSA).

- Why is this feminine?

נִיתַן **Gvcl3MS** √נִיתַן (Qal vav-consecutive Imperfect 3MS)

- One of the characteristics of I-Nun verbs is that in the imperfect the נִ assimilates with the second radical when the preformatives are added, which explains the absence of the נִ and the *dagesh forte* in the תָ (*Basics* 430–31).

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Jonah 2:1

וַיִּמְזַן **Dvcl3MS** √מָנַן
(Piel v.c. Imperfect 3MS)

- The Piel Imperfect of strong verbs are formed with a (1) patach under the first radical, (2) a tsere theme vowel, and (3) the doubling of the second radical:

יִקְטֹל

- In the Piel Imperfect of III-He verbs, the only visible weakness is a segol theme vowel instead of a tsere.

יִמְנֶה

- Now whereas for most stems of III-He verbs, the primary difference between the imperfect and the v.c. imperfect is the loss of the final he, for example,

יִגְלֶה GI3MS

וַיִּגְלֶה Dvcl3MS

in the Piel stem, not only does the final he disappear but so does the doubling of the second radical as well as the doubling of the preformative. Thus, for our word we have...

יִמְנֶה DI3MS

וַיִּמְזַן Dvcl3MS

בְּמַעֲיַי One of the radicals (i.e., root letters) has disappeared.

Jonah 2:2

וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל **HtDvcl3MS** √פָּלַל
(Hithpael v.c. Imperfect 3MS)

מִמַּעֲיַי See בְּמַעֲיַי in Jonah 2:1.

Jonah 2:3

וַיַּעֲנֵנִי **Gvcl3MS + 1CS** of a III-He verb
(Qal v.c. Imperfect 3MS + 1CS pron. suffix)

שָׁנְעָתִי **DP1CS**
(Piel Perfect 1CS)

Jonah 2:4

וַתִּשְׁלַח יְיָ **Hvcl2MS + 1CS**
(Hiphil v.c. Imperfect 2MS + 1CS pron. suffix)

יִסְבְּבֵנִי **Poel I3MS + 1CS**
(Poel Imperfect 3MS + 1CS pron. suffix)

- Poel is a minor pattern, a variation of the Piel. Don't worry about the formation of the stem, just note that there are alternative vowel patterns that some Hebrew words follow and that the BDB will list meanings for these stems.
- See BDB 686b Po'

Jonah 2:5

אֹסִיף **HI3MS** √סָפַף
(Hiphil Imperfect 3MS)

- With I-Yods (a.k.a. I-Vavs), it is often the case that the yod becomes a vav in the derived stems that take a prefix (i.e., niphil, hiphil, hophal).

לְהַבִּיט **HNC** √בָּטַט + P
(Hiphil Infinitive Construct + Preposition)

- Notice the diagnostics typical for the hiphil stem: (1) the initial he and (2) the hireq-yod theme vowel.
- What has happened to the first radical? Why?
- How does an infinitive construct with a prefixed lamed function?

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Jonah 2:6

אֶפְפוֹנִי

This word has a 1CS suffix.

עַד־נֶפֶשׁ

An idiom that can be translated as “up to the neck/throat” with the sense of “to the point of death.”

- See Psalm 69:2 (English 69:1) for the only other occurrence of this phrase.

יִסְבְּבוּנִי

Poel I3MS + 1CS

(Poel Imperfect 3MS + 1CS pron. suffix)

- Poel is a minor pattern, a variation of the Piel. Don't worry about the formation of the stem, just note that there are alternative vowelizing patterns that some Hebrew words follow and that the BDB will list meanings for these stems.
- See BDB 686b Po'
- Cf. Jonah 2:4

חָבוּשׁ

This is a participle.

Jonah 2:11

וַיִּקְיֵא

HvclI3MS וַיִּקְיֵא

(Hiphil v.c. Imperfect 3MS)

In the imperfect of middle-hollow verbs (II-Vav/ Yod), the middle radical is lost and replaced by the hireq-yod (יִ) theme vowel.

Thus, the hiphil of וַיִּקְיֵא is וַיִּקְיֵא.

- By the way, the qamets under the preformative is a compensatory-lengthened patach).

When it comes to v.c.imperfects in the hiphil it is common for the yod to disappear and resulting in . . . , you guessed it, that process that we have all come to know and love whereby the preceding vowel undergoes compensatory lengthening, and in this case the hireq has become a tsere. Yeah!

Jonah 2:7

בְּרִחִיָּה

MPC + 3FS from בְּרִיחַ

(MPC + 3FS suffix)

Jonah 2:8

בְּהִתְעַטֵּף

This is an infinitive construct prefixed with בְּ.

- We have learned that infinitive constructs with לְ indicate purpose. What does an infinitive construct with בְּ indicate?

Jonah 2:9

מְשַׁמְרִים

This is a participle.

Translation Helps for the Book of Jonah

Jonah 3:2

יִקְרָא Explain the text-critical note for this word. The following is taken from the Leningrad Codex (L).

Jonah 3:3

וַיִּלְךָ Recall that **וַיִּלְךָ** acts like a I-Yod.

Jonah 3:4

וַיִּחַל Hvcl3MS **חלל**
(Hiphil v.c. Imperfect 3MS)

- **Formation 1.** This is a weak verb fitting into the class called Geminates (a.k.a. Double-ע). In the hiphil imperfect, geminates exhibit three differences from their strong verb counterparts:
 1. A lengthened qamets under the preformative instead of a patach.
 2. A tsere theme vowel instead of the hireq-yod.
 3. They lose the gemination, i.e. the duplicated second radical;

Hiphil Imperfect — Strong **יִקְטִיל**
Hiphil Imperfect — Geminate **יִחַל**

- **Formation 2.** In addition, one other change is worth noting, this time a difference between the Imp and the vclmp. As we have seen with other verbs, when the vav consecutive imperfect is formed, the accent shifts forward in some verbs and the syllable with the preformative becomes the tonal syllable. Consequently, the last syllable, loses its tone and given that in this case we are left with a closed unaccented syllable, we would expect a normal short vowel, and so the tsere has reduced to a segol.
- **Meaning.** **חלל** appeared on the vocabulary lists for week 4. In the niphil it carries the meaning “he was defiled” and in the piel “he profaned.” In the hiphil it can also carry the meaning of “he profaned” but it can also carry the meaning of “he began” in which case it often takes an infinitive construct to complete its meaning (See BDB 320c).

נִהְפָּכְתָּ NPPtFSA **הִפְךָ**
(Niphil Passive Participle FSA)

Jonah 3:6

וַיָּנַע What does the dagesh forte in gimel indicate?

וַיִּכַּס This is a III-He verb.
• What does the lack of a dagesh forte in the preformative indicate?

Jonah 3:7

טַעַם judgement, decree; taste

מְאוּמָה anything

אֵל What does this particle tell you about the verbs that follow?

וַיִּרְעַן This is a III-He verb.

וַיִּשְׁתַּן This is a III-He verb.

Jonah 3:8

וַיִּתְכַּסֵּן This is a III-He verb.

Jonah 3:9

וַיִּנְחַם This is a I-Nun verb in the niphil stem. The nun of the verb stem has assimilated with the het, though here we have a case of virtual doubling (It’s there; you just can’t see it).